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E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/03/2026
TAGS: [UNSC](#) [PREL](#) [GT](#) [VE](#) [PA](#)
SUBJECT: PARAGUAY ON UNSC RACE

REF: STATE 162359

Classified By: PolCouns James P. Merz; Reasons 1.4(b),(d).

¶1. (C) Ambassador met with FM Ramirez October 3 to urge that Paraguay reconsider its commitment to support Venezuela's UNSC candidacy. Chavez had insulted President Bush and demonstrated no respect for the important role assumed by the Security Council in addressing pressing challenges in recent UNGA speech. Venezuela would undermine the effectiveness of the United Nations. Meanwhile, Guatemala was a responsible, serious State committed to constructive participation in Council proceedings.

¶2. (C) Ramirez told the Ambassador that Paraguay intended to honor its commitment to support Venezuela with its vote in the first, and possibly, the second round. However, he signaled Paraguay's commitment did not extend to subsequent rounds. Ramirez queried the Ambassador for our views regarding Paraguay's offering itself as a compromise candidate. The Ambassador told Ramirez that U.S. support for Guatemala was firm and conveyed our concern that the emergence of a third country candidate would only draw votes away from Guatemala and improve Venezuela's chances.

¶3. (C) COMMENT: Ramirez was named Paraguay's Foreign Minister less than two months ago. He is young, bright, and ambitious. Paraguay's former Foreign Minister, Leila Rachid, has been nominated to be Paraguay's next Ambassador to the United Nations. Her candidacy faces resistance from the opposition which controls the Senate and must approve her nomination. It would not be surprising if she or even President Duarte would welcome the prestige that attends participation on the UNSC. However, while clearly the thought of Paraguay's offering itself as third candidate has crossed the mind of at least FM Ramirez, we have no reason to believe at this juncture it represents anything more than a fleeting consideration. END COMMENT.
CASON